

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SCCT-01

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P R 040824Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3454

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: FOOTBALL, NOT POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS, DOMINATES WEEK-END

RE: MADRID 3424

1. AS FERNANDO ONEGA, LEAD COMUNIST FOR "ARRIBA" (NATINAL
MOVEMENT) NOTED, FOOTBALL -- WITH TWO GAMES VITAL FOR THE LEAGUE
CHAMPIONSHIP BEING TELEVISED LIVE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS --
RATHER THAN POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS DOMINATED THE ATTENTION OF
THE COUNTRY THIS LAST WEEKEND.

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2. IN A REPETITION OF THE EVENTS OF LAST APRIL 3, VARIOUS SMALL GROUPS ATTEMPTED TO HOLD DEMONSTRATIONS AT VARIOUS SITES THROUGHOUT MADRID. OFFICIAL SOURCES CLAIM NO ONE GROUP EXCEEDED A HUNDRED OR SO IN SIZE. ALL ATTEMPTS AT DEMONSTRATIONS WERE QUICKLY DISPERSED BY THE POLICE WHO WERE OUT IN FORCE. OBSERVATION BY AN EMBOFF AT ONE SITE -- A FAVORITE STAGING-POINT IN A WORKING CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD -- CONFIRMED BOTH THE SMALL SIZE OF THE ATTEMPTED DEMONSTRATIONS AND THE QUICK ACTION BY THE POLICE. EMBOFF ALSO OBSERVED ROUGH ACTION BY THE POLICE WHO READILY USED THEIR CLUBS ON THE DEMONSTRATORS. THE MEDIA REPORT THAT SOME 150 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED, BUT OFFICIAL SOURCES ALLEGE NO MORE THAN FIVE.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, REPORTEDLY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE CIVIL WAR, A GROUP OF SOCIALISTS WERE ALLOWED TO HOLD A PEACEFUL COMMEMORATIVE DEMONSTRATION BEFORE THE TOMB OF PABLO IGLESIAS IN THE CIVIL CEMETERY OF MADRID. IGLESIAS WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY (PSOE) AND ITS ALLIED LABOR UNION (UGT). PRESENT WERE LEADERS OF BOTH BRANCHES OF THE PSOE AND OF THE PSP. THOUGH POLICE WERE PRESENT THEY DID NOT INTERVENE AS THE SOCIALISTS, AS WELL, RESTRICTED THEMSELVES TO A STRICTLY COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY. LAST YEAR, THOSE SOCIALISTS WHO APPEARED AT THE CEMETERY ATTEMPTED TO DISTRIBUTE HAND-BILLS AND NUMBERS WERE ARRESTED.

4. KING JUAN CARLOS OFFICIATED AT THE ANNUAL CEREMONY WHERE ENTERPRISES, WORKERS, AND OUTSTANDING FAMILY HEADS -- WITH THE MOST NUMEROUS CHILDREN -- WERE AWARDED MEDALS SPONSORED BY THE NATION SYNDICAL SYSTEM. IN HIS BRIEF REMARKS, THE KING UNDERScoreD THE "SOCIAL CHARACTER OF THE MONARCHY", ADDING THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO BRING TO THE FIELD OF LABOR RELATIONS AND THE ENTERPRISE THE "SAME PRINCIPLES OF REPRESENTATIVITY AND FREEDOM" WHICH ARE TO GUIDE POLITICAL LIFE. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL SITUATION, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID03454
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760173-0167
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760594/aaaadcrp.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOOTBALL, NOT POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS, DOMINATES WEEK-END RE: MADRID 3424
TAGS: PINT, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006